Absolute Beginners Guide to Getting Started with WordPress

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1 Manual Installation

1.1 Getting The Code

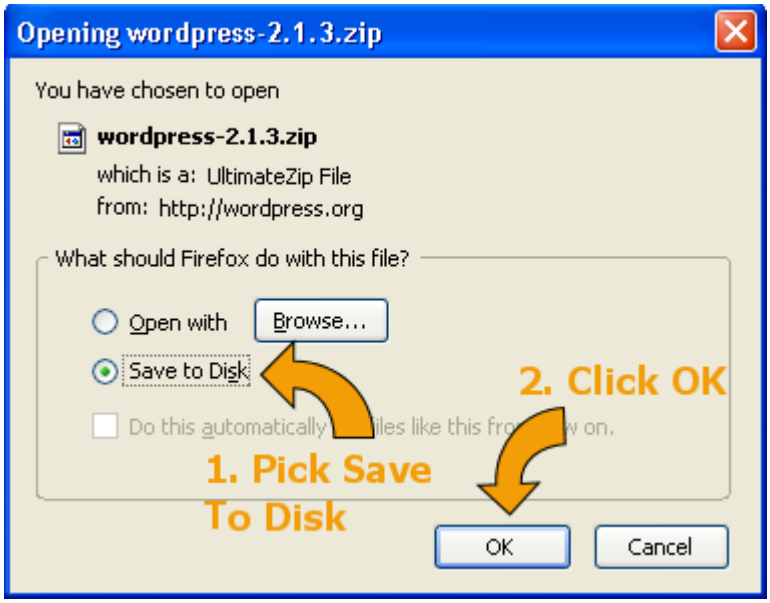
First go to http://wordpress.org

From here you can go to all of the different parts of this site, including:

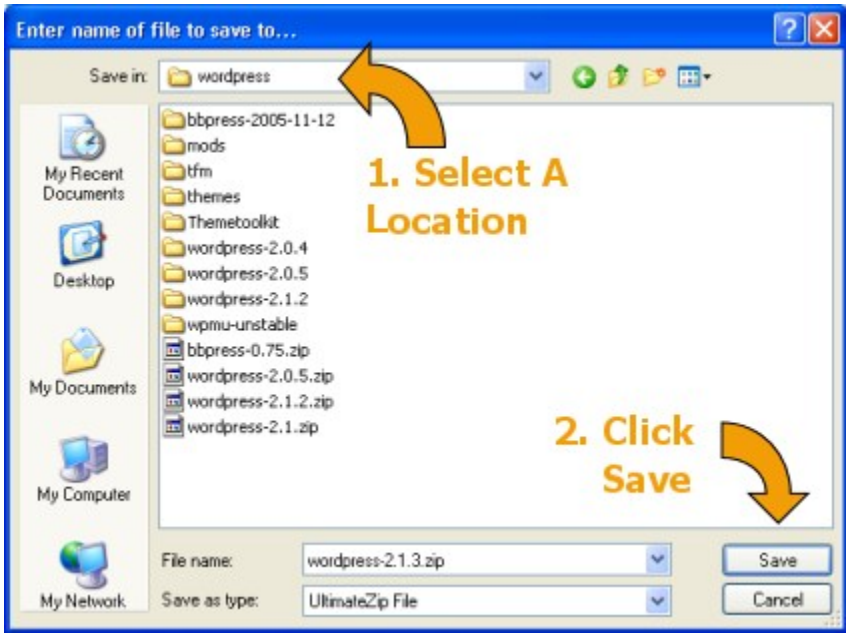
Support (http://wordpress.org/support) forums where you can ask questions and read answers to questions others have asked.
Docs (http://codex.wordpress.org/Main_Page) Where you can read the instructions for different aspects of using the WordPress Personal Pyblishing Software (blogging software).
Extend (http://wordpress.org/extend/) Where you can find plugins and themes for your WordPress Blog.

And the one we are interested in right now, **Download** (http://wordpress.org/download/) where you can find the most recent version of WordPress available to download for free.

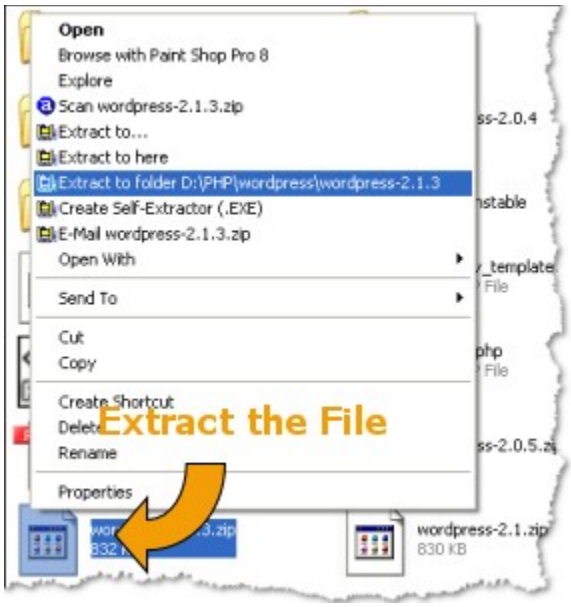
When the File Dialog appears pick Save To Disk and click "OK".



Now Select a folder to save the file in and click “save”.



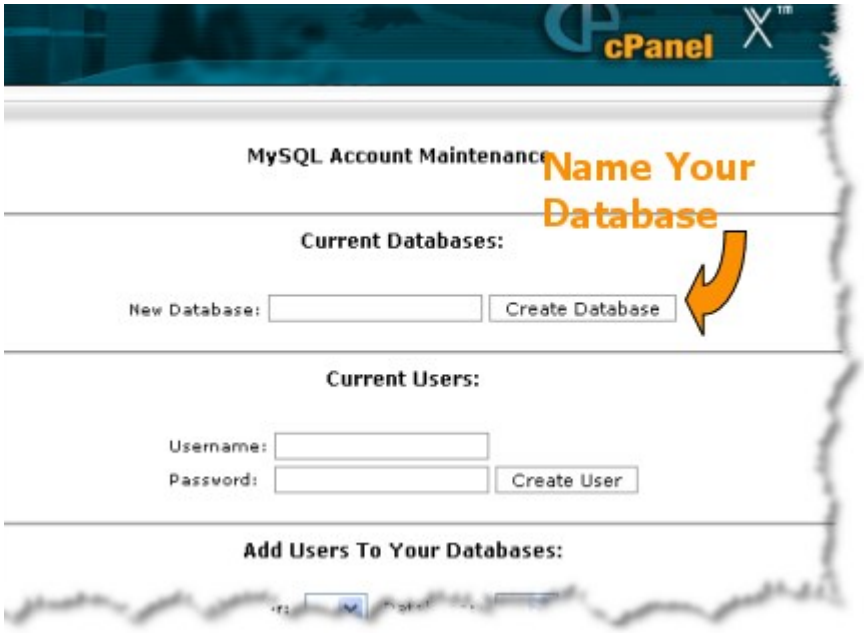
Now Navigate to the folder you saved the download in and extract it to a new folder



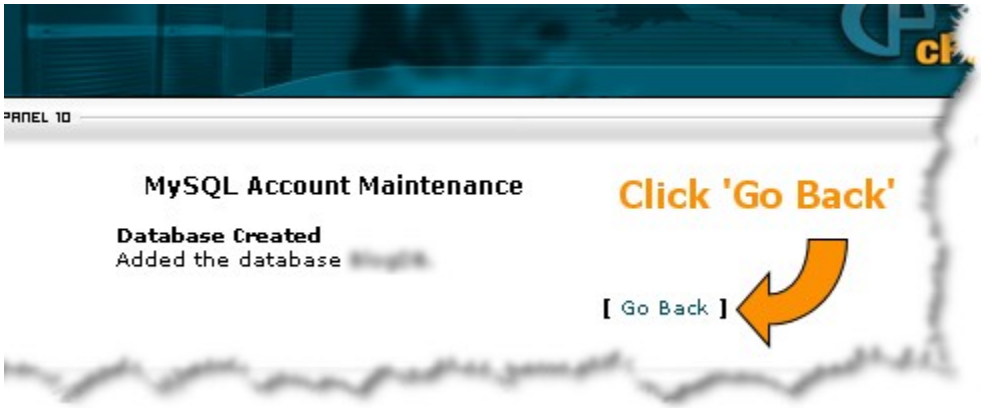
1.2 Configuring WordPress for installation

Open your web browser and navigate to your hosting account's cpanel. This should be located at (http://yourdomain.com/cpanel). Log into your cpanel and select the MySQL icon.

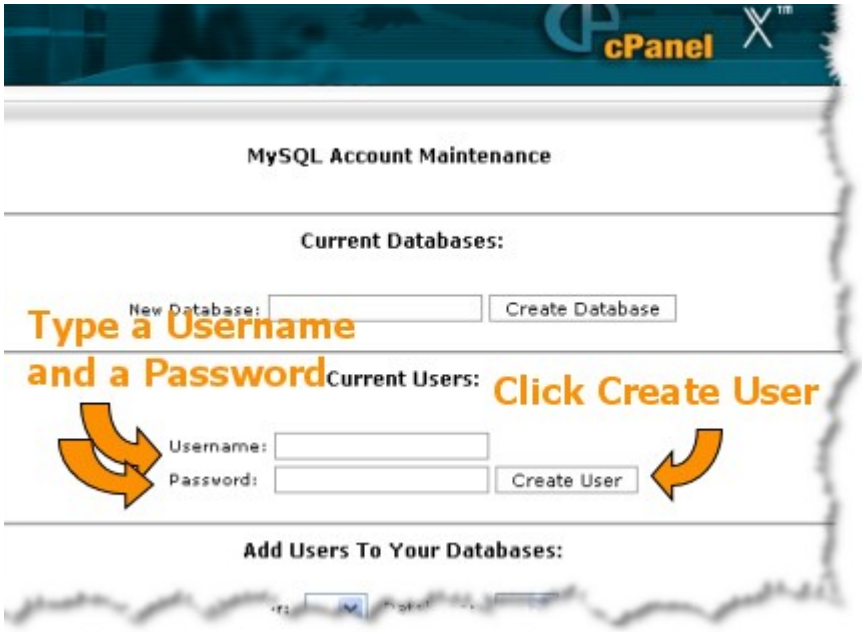
Now type in a name for your database and click 'Create Database'



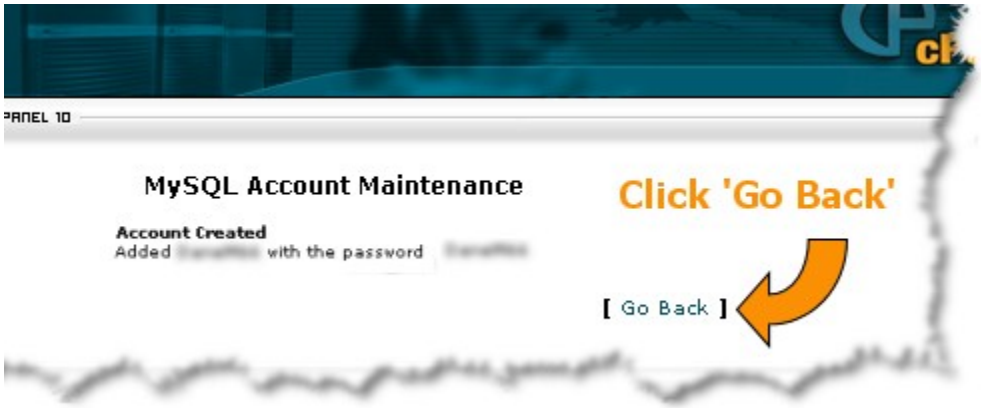
Click the ‘Go Back’ Link.



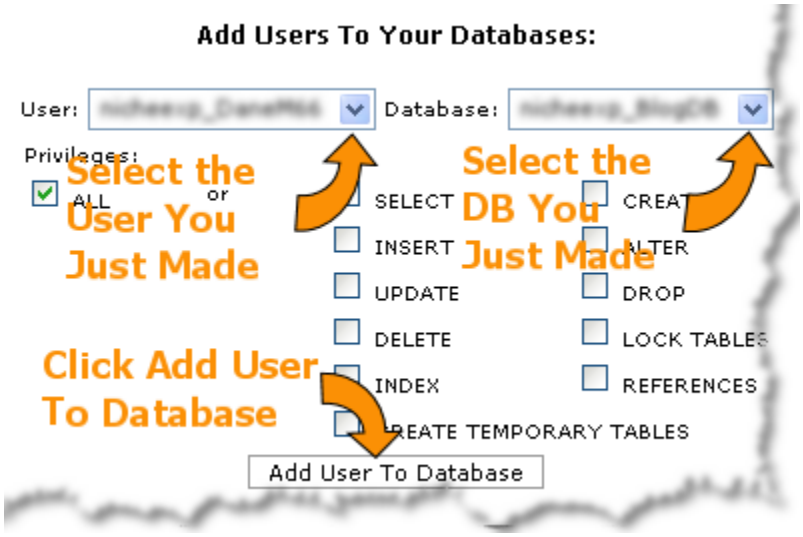
Type in a Username and a Password and click on the ‘Create User’ button.



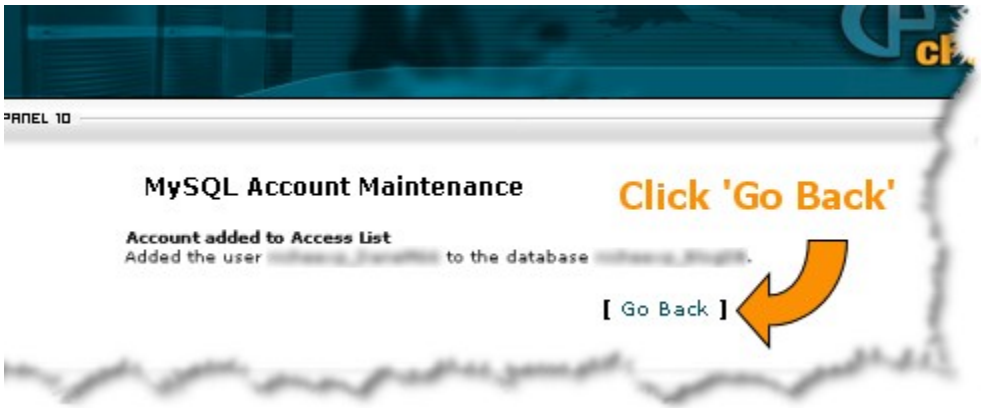
Click the ‘Go Back’ link.



Add the new user to the new database by selecting the username and the database from the dropdown boxes. Then Click ‘Add User To Database’.



Click the ‘Go Back’ Link.

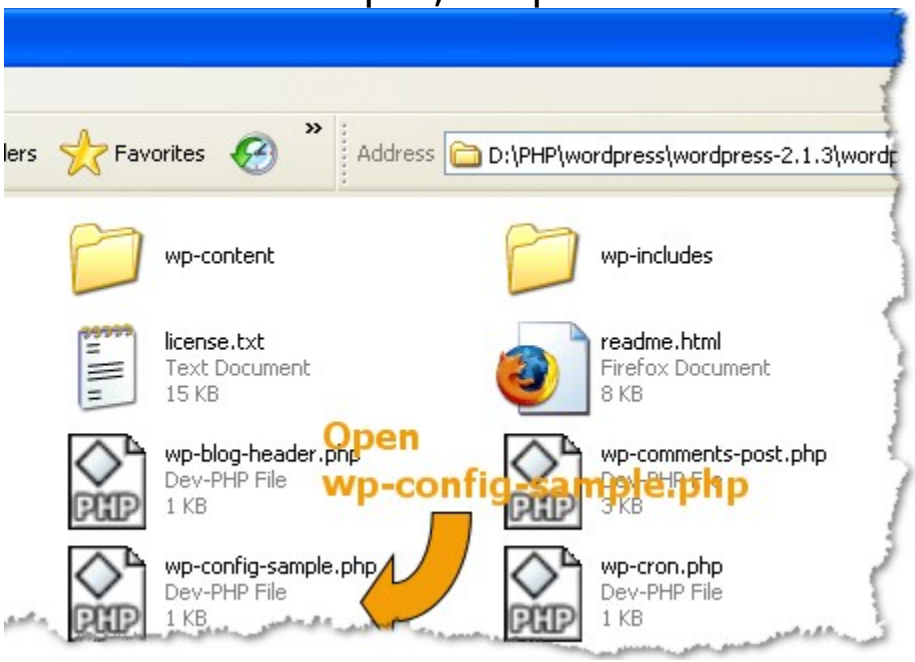


Note that Cpanel will most probably have changed your database name and your userneame. It will have prepended your cpanel user name to the database name and to the user name like this.

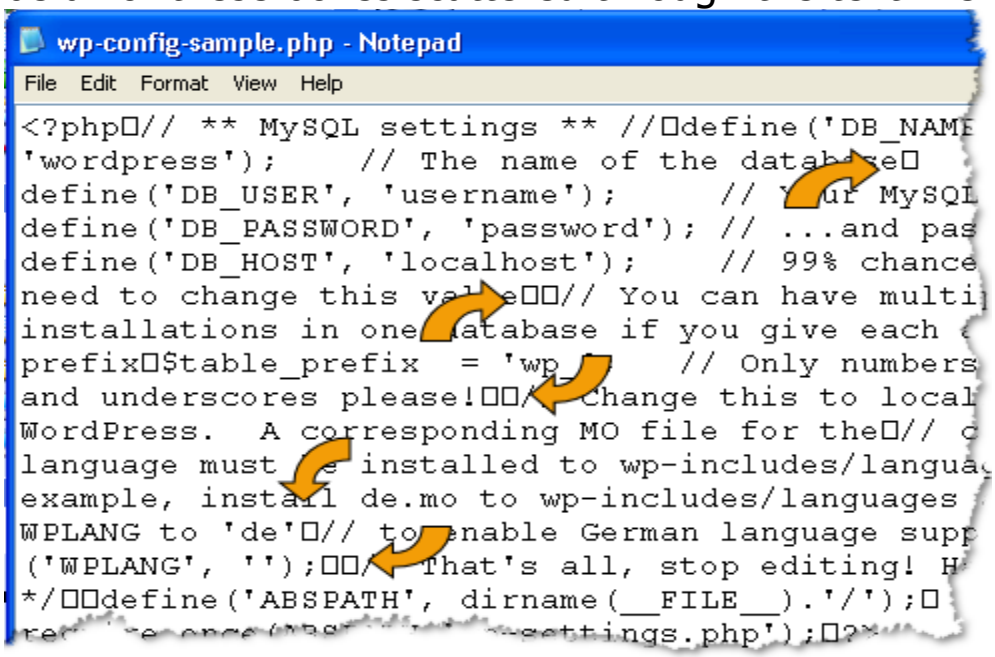
cPanelName_DatabaseName
cPanelName_Username

Your password will be unaffected by this and will remain exactly as you typed it. If at any time you forget your password, you can return to the MySQL page and type the username into the box exactly as you typed it the first time and type in any new password you like and it will reset the password for that username.

Open the new folder you extracted WordPress into. You will find another folder called wordpress. Open this folder and locate the wp-config-sample.php file and open it in a text editor such as notepad, textpad or HTMLkit.

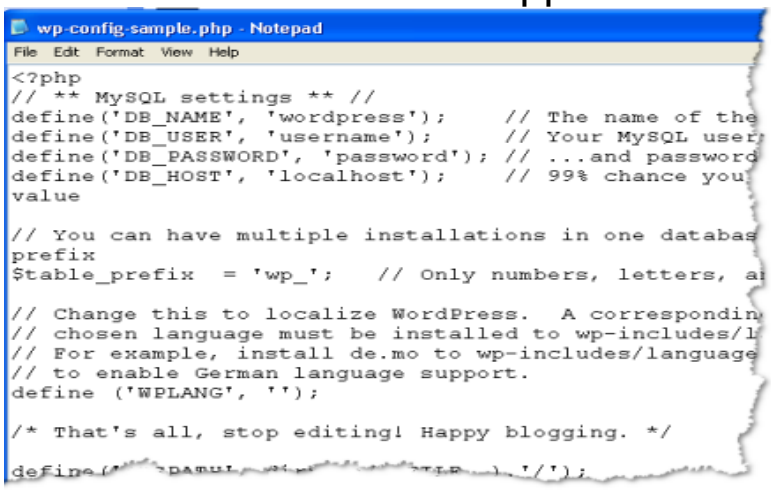


If you are a windows user and you open the file in notepad it may seem like something is wrong with it. It will all be in a single line unless you turn on word wrapping, and there will be all of these boxes scattered through the text like this.



This is normal. It is caused by the fact that Unix, Macintosh and PC operating systems all represent carraige returns with different codes.

To correct this open the file in Wordpad, save it and close it. This will correctly interpret and save the proper formatting of the file Which will then appear like this.



We are really only interested in the first four lines here.

```
define ('DB-NAME', 'wordpress');
define ('DB_USER', 'username');
define ('DB_PASSWORD', 'password');
define ('DB_HOST', 'localhost');
```

In Line one you will replace 'wordpress' with the database name you chose. In line two you will replace 'username' with the username you chose. In line three you will replace 'password' with the password you chose. Leave line four as it is. This will almost always work as is. If it does not work you will need to contact your hosting company to find out the hostname for your MySQL server.

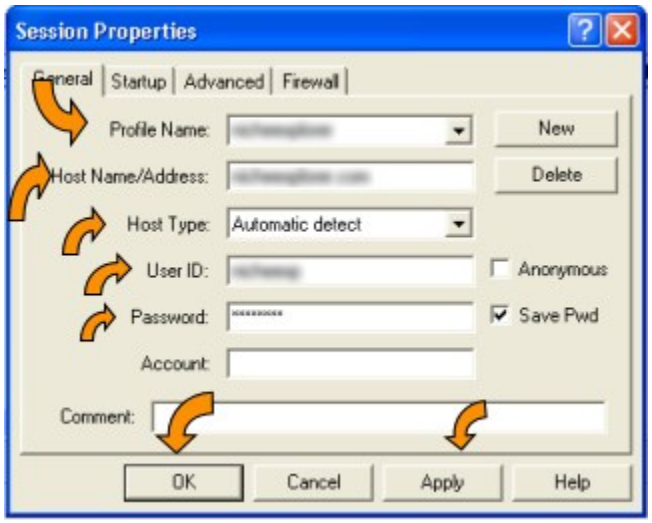
After making these changes choose 'Save As' from the 'File' Menu option. Make sure you are in the same folder where you extracted you wordpress files and name the file

wp-config.php

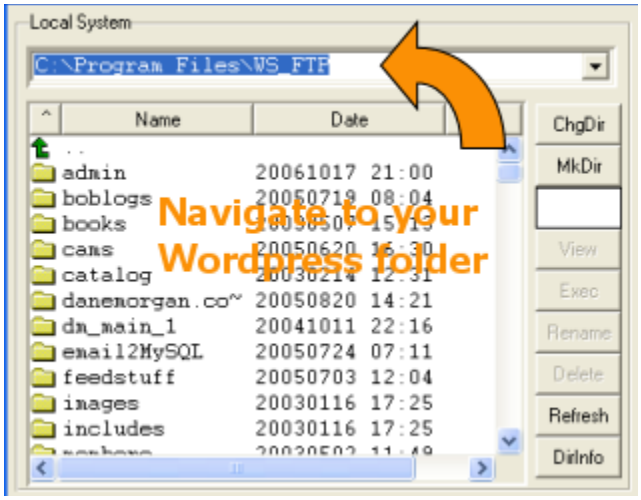
Now you will have both wp-config-sample.php and Wp-config.php In this folder. Leave the wp-config-sample alone so you remember to edit it again next time you install WordPress.

Open a new notepad documant and save it as .htaccess.txt. Don't type anything in this, just leave it blank and save it to the wordpress folder.

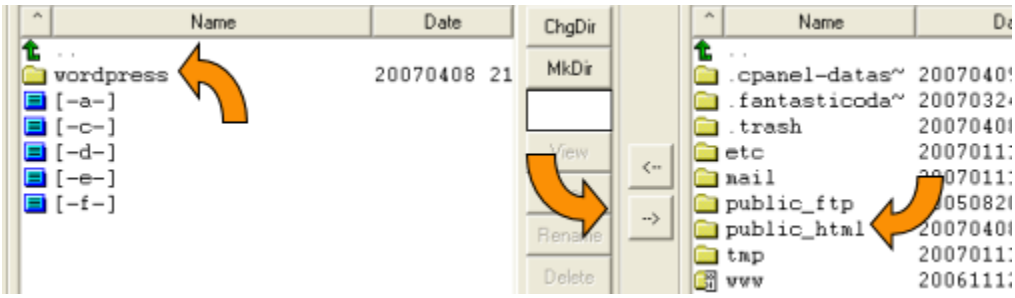
Now it's time to upload these files.
You will need an FTP program to do this part. There are many free ftp programs available and any of them is pretty much as good as any of the rest. The pictures in this report are from WS-FTP.



First Select a Profile name, this can be anything that will help you remember what domain this profile connects to. Next type in your domain name. Don't use the http:// or the www. Just use the domainname.com part. Leave the host type on Auto Detect unless you host has specifically told you to use another setting. Type in your cpanel username and password in the user ID and password boxes and checkmark the save password box. Click 'Apply' to save the profile and 'OK' to connect.

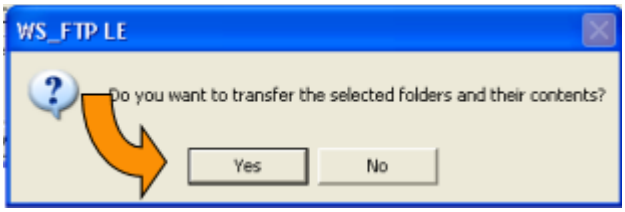


In the left hand pane, navigate to the folder where you extracted the wordpress files.

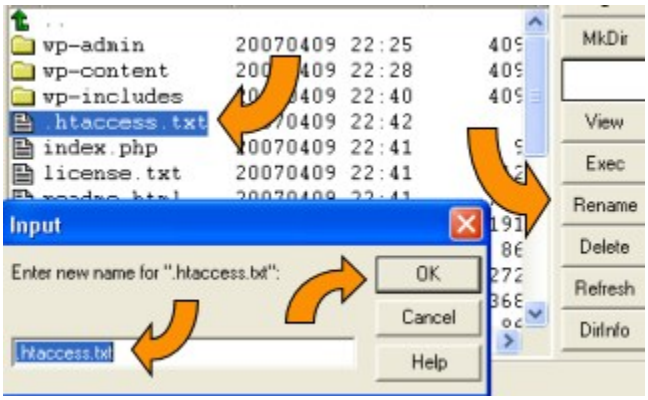


If you will be installing the blog in a subdirectory or subdomain, rename the wordpress folder to the same name as that folder. If you will be installing as the home page of the whole site, rename it to 'public_html'.

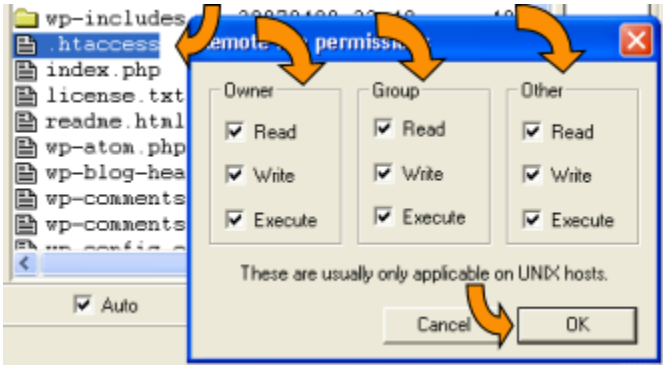
Make sure the 'Auto' Checkbox is checked. This ensures that the PHP, HTML and TXT files are uploaded in ascii mode and the images are uploaded in binary mode. This is important. If you renamed your wordpress folder to public_html, then click the right pointing arrow. If you named it something else, then double click on the public_html folder in the right pane and then click the right pointing arrow.



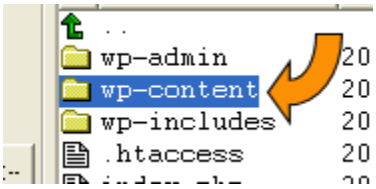
Select 'Yes' when the dialog pops up asking you if you want to transfer the selected folders and all their contents.



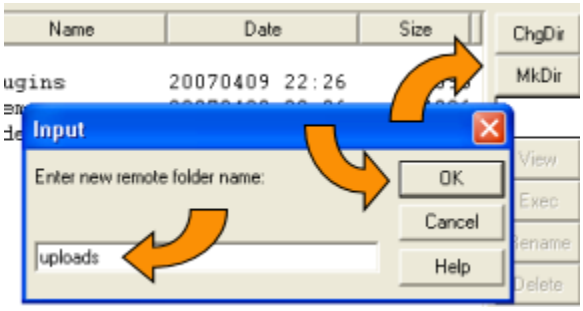
Highlight the .htaccess.txt file and click 'Rename'. Delete the .txt part.



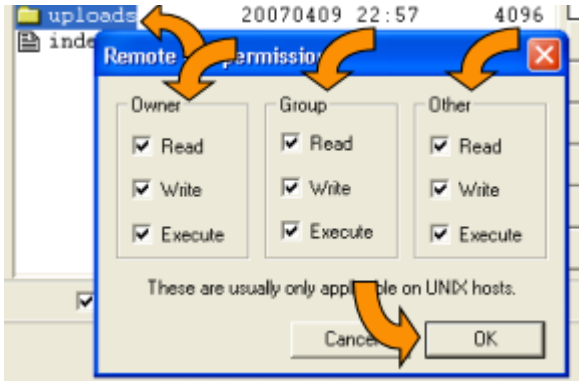
Highlight it again and right click on it. Select CHMOD from the dropdown list. Set all of the check boxes to have a check mark in them and click 'OK'.



Double click on the wp-content folder.



Click MkDir. Type in 'uploads'. Click 'OK'



Highlight the uploads folder, right click on it. Put checks in all of the boxes and click 'OK'.

Close you FTP Program and open your browser. In the address bar type in the url to the folder you uploaded WordPress to plus /wp-admin/install.php. If you uploaded it to the public_html folder, you just type your domain like (http://yourdomain.com/wp-admin/install.php). If you placed it in another folder inside the public_html folder you'll add /yourfolder/ to the end like (http://yourdomain/yourfolder/wp-admin/install.php).

This will trigger the famous two minute install. ;) Yes it really does only take two minutes, or less, once you reach this point. And all told you can do everything we've done to this point, and everything we have left to do in under 5-10 minutes depending on your connection speed and your familiarity with the process.

Click the "First Step" link.

Enter a name for your Blog and your email address. Consider un-checking the "I would like my blog to appear…" check box. This will allow you to play with your theme and some posts without that being picked up and indexed. Click "continue to Second Step".

Write down your password. Without it you don't have a blog any more. Click the Log In link.

Type in your username (which will be 'admin') and your password. Click Login.

And there you are! Click on "write" to start blogging, or explore some of the other tabs to set up the various options available!

I'll do another report in the near future on adding plugins and themes to your WordPress blog, but that's really all that you HAVE to do to get to the point where you can start publishing your own blog!
Happy Blogging!

Please Share This Report!

Feel free to put it on your site for other people to download, or tell them they can download it here:

Beginners' Guides to WordPress Blogs

That is also where you will find new editions of this report as well as subsequent reports I plan to write to help people learn to use WordPress.

Please share your comments, questions or thoughts on improving this report at:

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